



State of California-Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Services



DIANA M. BONTÁ, R.N., Dr. P.H.  
Director

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Governor

December 9, 2003

CHDP Provider Information Notice No.: 03-32

TO: CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP) PROGRAM  
PROVIDERS AND MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE PLANS

SUBJECT: INFLUENZA VACCINE UPDATE

This notice updates the October 3, 2003 Provider Information Notice (PIN) 03-24. The 2003-04 influenza season has arrived earlier than usual and an increased number of children around the state are being exposed to influenza. Additionally, a number of deaths from influenza occurring in children have been reported in other states. Because the influenza vaccine is in short supply, the CHDP Program wants to encourage you to use the vaccine you have available by making a special effort to bring in and vaccinate as many of the high-risk children in your practice as is feasible. Also, enclosed are recommendations for respiratory hygiene in your office and for counseling families.

PIN 03-24 recommended influenza vaccine for the following children:

- Children who have required medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year because of chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus).
- Children with chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma.
- Children who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy, and therefore, might be at risk for developing Reye syndrome after influenza infection.
- VFC-eligible children who are household members of persons in above high risk groups.
- Healthy infants 6 to 24 months of age

For CHDP-eligible children who meet these criteria, the CHDP Program will reimburse for influenza vaccine:

- If influenza vaccine is provided by the Vaccine for Children (VFC) Program: influenza vaccine is to be billed using code **"53"** for VFC-provided vaccine.
  - If the vaccine is provided at the same time as a CHDP health assessment, code "53" (Influenza vaccine, VFC) should be billed under "Immunizations".
  - If the vaccine is provided in between scheduled CHDP periodic health assessments, code "53" can be used, following the instructions in the CHDP Provider Manual (Section **conf clm comp**, page 23) for billing a partial screen and include code "53" under "Immunizations".
- If influenza vaccine is purchased because the vaccine is not available through VFC, bill the CHDP program using code **"54"** and indicate in the "Comments/Problems" box that VFC vaccine is not available.

If you have questions about how to obtain additional vaccine supplies for immunizing high risk children, please contact the immunization program at your local health department. If you have any other questions, please contact your local CHDP Program.

**Original Signed By Maridee A. Gregory, M.D.**

Maridee Gregory, M.D., Chief  
Children's Medical Services Branch

Enclosure



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## Respiratory Hygiene Recommendations

We urge that all physician and clinics take measures that can lessen the impact of a local influenza outbreak in your offices.

- Providing masks to all patients with symptoms of a respiratory illness with instructions on their proper use and disposal.
- Providing a readily accessible waterless hand hygiene product and instructing patients to decontaminate their hands after dealing with respiratory secretions and before their contact with a health care worker.
- Providing, if possible, a small paper or plastic bag for tissue disposal.
- If at all possible, separating patients with respiratory illnesses from other patients, by either placing them in a separate area or examination room.
- Ensuring that all of your staff has received influenza vaccine and not to come to work if they have respiratory illness symptoms.

We urge you to remind the families of your patients:

- Avoid large crowds during the period of rapid spread of virus.
- Keep children and themselves at home, and not in school or day care setting, if they present with respiratory symptoms.
- Flu can be spread by coughing or sneezing and family members should cover their mouths when coughing and use disposable tissues when sneezing or blowing their noses. Tissues should be thrown away immediately.
- Families should avoid sharing glasses, forks, spoons, etc.
- Stress the importance of washing hands frequently using soap and warm water; drying hands with as clean a towel as possible.
- When caring for a family member who is ill, hands should be washed immediately after helping them.
- Frequently wash the hands and avoid touching the nose, eyes, and mouth in order to avoid transmitting or getting the flu or other respiratory infections.